

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

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FM AMCONSUL MONTERREY
TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO
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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PINT, PINS, MX
SUBJECT: FURTHER ACTIVITIES OF COMITE PRO-DEFENSA DE PRESOS
PERSEGUIDOS, DESAPARACIDOS Y EXILIADOS POLITICOS

REF: (A) 77 STATE 238592, (B) 77 MONTERREY 0686

1. ALLEGED HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS BY MEXICAN POLICE
AUTHORITIES ARE OBTAINING CONSIDERABLE COVERAGE IN MONTERREY'S
WIDEST CIRCULATION DAILY. MOST OF THIS REPORTING IS INSPIRED
BY STATEMENTS OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE COMITE PRO-DEFENSA DE
PRESOS POLITICOS Y DESAPARECIDOS (REFTELS). CHARGES OF THIS
COMITE CENTER ABOUT ALLEGATIONS OF VERY SERIOUS HUMAN RIGHTS
VIOLATIONS INFLICTED UPON LEFT-WING ACTIVISTS BY MEXICAN POLICE
AND FEDERAL INTERNAL SECURITY ELEMENTS. SPECIFICS OF COMITE'S
ACCUSATIONS STRESS "DISAPPEARANCES" OF YOUNG ACTIVISTS WHICH IT
ALLEGES ARE ENGINEERED BY COVERT ACTION ON THE PART OF THE
DIRECCION FEDERAL DE SEGURIDAD'S (DFS) "GUARDIAS BLANCAS."
ACCUSATIONS HAVE NOT GONE SO FAR AS TO CHARGE MURDER BY FEDERAL
AUTHORITIES, SAVE TO NOTE THAT ACTIVIST SUSPECTS ARE OFTEN
"KILLED IN ENCOUNTERS" (MUERTOS EN ENFRENTAMIENTOS) DURING
POLICE RAIDS.

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2. ACCUSATIONS OF COMITE, AS REPRESENTED BY PRESS COVERAGE,
HAVE NEVER CONTAINED DENIALS THAT VICTIMS OF INTERNAL
SECURITY FORCES ARE LEFTIST ACTIVISTS, OR EVEN ACTUAL
MEMBERS OF THE 23RD OF SEPTEMBER TERRORIST GROUP. ACCUSATIONS
DO, HOWEVER, STRESS THAT PARAMILITARY WHITE BRIGADES ARE
UNCONSTITUTIONAL, THAT ACTIVIST PRISONERS ARE TORTURED, AND
THAT RAIDS BY AUTHORITIES ARE CARRIED OUT WITH LETHAL

BRUTALITY.

3. THE COMITE HAS ALSO NOT RESTRICTED ITS ACTIVITY TO NUEVO LEON STATE. IT SENT A SPOKESMAN TO THE U.S. IN APRIL 1978 WHO, ACCORDING TO LOCAL PRESS, DENOUNCED THE "DISAPPEARANCE" OF MEXICAN ACTIVISTS IN "CLANDESTINE PRISONS IN MEXICO."

SPOKESMAN ALSO ALLIED HERSELF AND THE COMITE TO THE CAUSE OF HECTOR MARROQUIN, A MEXICAN STUDENT LEADER WHO HAS SOUGHT POLITICAL ASYLUM IN THE U.S. LOCAL POLICE AUTHORITIES HAVE CLAIMED MARROQUIN WAS INVOLVED IN CRIMES INCLUDING MURDER AND ROBBERY, AND MARROQUIN HAS CHARGED THAT HIS LIFE WOULD BE ENDANGERED WERE HE TO RETURN TO MEXICO. LOCAL PRESS ARTICLES INSPIRED BY THE COMITE CLAIM MARROQUIN HAS OBTAINED A MEASURE OF SUPPORT FOR HIS ASYLUM CLAIM FROM INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS OF THE U.S. CONGRESS.

4. IN LATE MAY THE COMITE ALSO ACCUSED "POWERFUL ECONOMIC GROUPS" (READ GRUPO MONTERREY) OF HAVING SEIZED UPON RECENT TERRORIST FIRE BOMBINGS IN WAREHOUSES IN MEXICO CITY TO PRESSURE THE GOM TO INCREASE REPRESSION AGAINST ACTIVISTS. CONCERNING THE FIRE BOMBINGS IN THE CAPITAL, THE COMITE WAS ALSO REPORTED TO HAVE DENIED THAT JORGE ENRIQUE SANCHEZ AND RAFAEL AGUIRRE GARCIA COULD POSSIBLY HAVE BEEN INVOLVED SINCE BOTH INDIVIDUALS HAD BEEN PUT UNDER DETENTION BY GUADALAJARA POLICE AUTHORITIES ONE MONTH BEFORE THE CRIME LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OCCURRED.

5. THE COMITE'S CHARGES ARE OBTAINING AMPLE COVERAGE IN MONTERREY'S MOST RESPECTED DAILY, BUT COMITE HAS NOT YET MADE ANY APPROACH TO THE CONSULATE GENERAL. NEITHER HAVE WE APPROACHED THE COMITE. NEVERTHELESS, THEIR PUBLICITY DRIVE HAS ALREADY INCLUDED A KNOWN APPEAL TO WASHINGTON (REF (A)) AND THEY NOW APPEAR TO BE SEEKING SUPPORT FROM MORE DISTANT SHORES. MONTERREY'S MOST POPULAR COLUMNIST HAS TOLD HIS READERS OF RECEIVING LETTERS FROM THE UK, GERMANY, USSR, ITALY, AND FRANCE CHARGING THAT CERTAIN ACTIVISTS HAD BEEN ARRESTED AND SUBSEQUENTLY DISAPPEARED WHILE IN THE HANDS OF POLICE AUTHORITIES. ACTIVISTS NAMED IN THESE LETTERS INCLUDED: MARIO CARTAGENA LOPEZ, RAMIREZ SALAS RAMOS (SIC), JOSE FERNANDO LOPEZ RODRIGUEZ, ALBERTO LOPEZ HERRERA, AND OTHERS.

6. DIRECTOR OF MONTERREY DAILY WHICH HAS BEEN ALMOST ALONE AMONG LOCAL PRESS IN PUBLICIZING COMITE'S CHARGES CLAIMS NO SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE IN HIS PAPER'S VIRTUAL MONOPOLY ON COVERAGE OF THE COMITE'S ACCUSATIONS. HE EXPLAINED THAT HIS PAPER PRESERVES ITS INDEPENDENCE (N.B. IN MONTERREY VIEW

INDEPENDENCE IS FREEDOM FROM THE NATION'S CAPITAL -- AND NOT NECESSARILY FREEDOM FROM LOCAL PRESSURES FROM BUSINESS INTERESTS) AND SEEKS TO BE BOLDER THAN OTHER LOCAL DAILIES IN ITS REPORTING. HE NOTED THAT HIS PAPER, EL NORTE, WAS EQUALLY BOLD IN PUBLICIZING THE PECADILLOS OF LOCAL POLITICIANS AND THEIR FAMILIES.

7. ACTION REQUESTED : CONGEN MONTERREY WOULD APPRECIATE BEING KEPT APPRISED BY EMBASSY AND DEPARTMENT OF ANY FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS IN CASE OF EX-REGIOMONTANO HECTOR MARROQUIN. MCLENDON

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